MARGE ROUKEMA
7TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

(29)

8100616

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

81-0163

January 14, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
BE EXEMPTIONS _____

The Honorable Edmund S. Muskie
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to express my appreciation for your responsiveness to my request that you call Mr. and Mrs. John Sullivan about their son, John, who is currently missing in El Salvador. However, I am still very concerned about serious questions which have been raised concerning the degree of priority being given to the search for Mr. Sullivan.

I have tried to cooperate with your Department on this matter, but certain statements made to the Sullivans by the American embassy in San Salvador and the White House, as well as the political instability currently existing in El Salvador, have made me fearful that Mr. Sullivan's safety is not being given the attention it deserves.

Although my office has been given assurances by Mr. James Ward, the Director of the Overseas Citizens Office of the State Department, that everything possible is being done, the Sullivan family was told by Mr. Howard Lane, the Public Affairs Officer of the American embassy in San Salvador, that the matter was being given a "low priority." I am shocked to learn that the safety of any American citizen in a foreign country would be given a "low priority."

The Sullivans have also been told in a very curt fashion by Mr. Leonard Lefkow of the White House national security staff that there is nothing more that can be done on the matter. After being informed of this, they were abruptly dismissed by Mr. Lefkow.

Meanwhile, while working closely with both the Sullivans and your Department, I have noticed that all of the ideas for following various leads in the case (e.g. verification of travel, checking passenger lists, etc.) have originated with the Sullivans.

According to Mr. Ward, although the identification information has been relayed through the American embassy, the investigation rests entirely within the authority of the Salvadoran police. Yet, there is some question as to the reliability of Salvadoran police investigations concerning American citizens. I understand that the Rogers Report on the recent

Russell Wingo
CA. responded

murders of four American nuns in El Salvador states that, while there is no evidence that the Salvadoran government was involved in those murders, there is circumstantial evidence that it assisted in the coverup.

Finally, I have been informed by the home office of Sheraton Hotels in Boston that the Sheraton Motor Inn in San Salvador claims to have informed Mr. Brian J. Bosch, the Defense Attache to the American embassy, on a date prior to January 6 of Mr. Sullivan's disappearance. Yet, the embassy claims that they were not informed of the disappearance until the morning of the 6th, on which date they notified the State Department in Washington. Obviously, if there was any delay in transmitting this information, it would have had a serious negative effect on the investigation.

In light of the above concerns, could you please see that the following questions are answered with dispatch: 1) What has been done up to this point by the State Department in the investigation of the disappearance of John Sullivan? 2) What alternatives may be available to avoid a total reliance upon the Salvadoran police in the investigation? 3) When exactly did the American embassy in San Salvador learn that Mr. Sullivan was missing?

I look forward to your reply and the continued cooperation of the State Department in this matter.

Sincerely,

Marge Roukema

Marge Roukema
Member of Congress

MSR:Dy